

VZCZCXYZ0000  
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBH #0368 0621509  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 031509Z MAR 06  
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2174  
INFO RUEHBE/AMEMBASSY BELIZE 1239  
RUEHWN/AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN 5369  
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 8311  
RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE 3344  
RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN 4510  
RUEHDG/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 2625  
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHDC  
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS NASSAU 000368

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CAR WBENT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [SENV](#) [ECON](#) [EAGR](#) [PREL](#) [BF](#)

SUBJECT: FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS SUGGEST NO BIRD FLU

REF: NASSAU 363

11. The Bahamian Ministries of Agriculture and Health sent a surveillance team to the southern island of Great Inagua on March 2 to investigate whether a group of wild birds found dead several days ago could have been the Western Hemisphere's first cases of avian influenza or bird flu. The team found only five birds whose cause of death was not immediately apparent, a lower number than was initially reported (reftel). The lower number of birds and the lack of subsequent bird deaths led the team to conclude that the evidence in Great Inagua is not consistent with an outbreak of bird flu.

12. An official from the Bahamian office of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) indicated that samples from the dead birds would be sent to London the night of March 3 for testing at the Weybridge Laboratory. He believed the results would be back the beginning of next week.

HARDT